	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/602,763	DAVIS, DALE J.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ed Swinehart	3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-18*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *25 June 2003* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

    (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. ____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____ , which has been approved by the Examiner.

    (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____

4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ .

7 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8 ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9 ☐ Other   .

                                          Ed Swinehart
                                        Primary Examiner
                                        Art Unit: 3617

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: The second occurrence of claim

13 has been renumbered as claim 14, and claim 14 as filed has been renumbered as

claim 15.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Rowe and

Correll disclose three piece floatation devices, with one portion passing between the

legs, and the other two portion attached to the ends of the first. As disclosed, the

addition of a fastening means would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the invention, as such would interfere with the intended usage of

such inventions. Helt et al. disclose one piece floatation devices which extend between

the legs, and having fastening means, however, modification so as that they are of

multiple piece construction as claimed would destroy the teachings of Helt et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ed Swinehart whose telephone number is 703-308-

2566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to

2:00 pm..

3.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Samuel Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

4.   Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-

1113.

Ed   Swinehart
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617